

FLOOD PREPAREDNESS INFORMATION

HOW TO PREPARE AHEAD OF TIME:

- Check your flood hazard rating by going to <http://www.floodsmart.gov>.
- Contact your insurance agent about insurance to cover flood, land movement, etc.
- Residents of Auburn can register for Auburn Alert to have emergency messages delivered to you at your home or cell phone by going to <http://www.auburnwa.gov/disaster> and click on the "Auburn Alert" logo.
- Register for email alerts and updates at <http://www.auburnwa.gov> and click on "Email Updates".
- Develop a family emergency plan.
- Post emergency telephone numbers by the phone. Teach children to dial 911.
- Plan and practice a flood evacuation route with your family.
- Ask an out-of-state relative or friend to be the "family contact" in case your family is separated during a flood. Make sure everyone in your family knows the name, address, and phone number of this contact person.
- Determine if the roads you normally travel will be flooded during a storm. If so, look for alternate routes to use during flooding.
- Don't forget to have a plan for your pets.
- If you live in an area that may flood, stockpile emergency supplies.
- If you have a sump pump make sure it is working.
- Clear debris from gutters and downspouts.
- Anchor any fuel tanks. An unanchored tank in your basement can be torn free by floodwaters, contaminate your basement, get swept outside, or be swept downstream causing additional contamination and damage.
- Have a licensed electrician raise electric components (switches, sockets, circuit breakers and wiring) at least 12" above your home's projected flood elevation.
- Place the furnace and water heater on masonry blocks or concrete at least 12" above the projected flood elevation.
- If your washer and dryer are in the basement, elevate them on masonry or pressure-treated lumber at least 12" above the projected flood elevation.
- Have check valves installed in building sewer traps to prevent flood waters from backing up in sewer drains.
- Make sure all family members know how and when to turn off electricity, water, and gas.
- Everyone in your family should know the designated meeting place if you are separated.
- Check all emergency supplies for fresh batteries and make sure they are in good working order.
- Keep your automobile fueled; if electric power is cut off, gas stations may not be able to operate pumps.
- Water service may be interrupted so store drinking water in food grade containers & the bathtub.
- Keep a stock of food requiring little cooking and no refrigeration in case electric power may be interrupted.
- Make sure any photos or videos of all of your important possessions are in a safe place. These documents will help you file a full flood insurance claim.
- Store important documents and irreplaceable personal objects (such as photographs) where they won't get damaged. If major flooding is expected in your area, consider putting them in a storage facility.
- If major flooding is expected, move furniture and valuables to the upper levels of your home.

FLOOD WATCH - means a flood is possible in your area:

- Listen to 710 AM for official Emergency Alert System messages or 1700 AM for local emergency information. Check the City of Auburn website and TV21 for additional information regarding the situation.
- Move valuables to higher ground if you haven't already.

FLOOD WARNING - means flooding is already occurring or will soon occur in your area:

- Listen to your emergency radio stations
- If advised to evacuate, do so immediately!
- Be especially cautious at night when it is harder to recognize flood dangers.
- Do not attempt to drive through a flooded road.
- Do not drive around a barricade.
- Get away from standing, flowing, or rising water.
- If you are driving and your car stalls, abandon your vehicle and carefully head to higher ground.
- Check on your neighbor if they require special assistance, are elderly and/or have disabilities or language challenges.
- Listen to a portable or weather radio for the latest storm information.
- If local authorities instruct you to do so, turn off all utilities at the main power switch and close the main gas valve.
- If the waters start to rise inside your house before you have evacuated, retreat to a higher location in your home.
- Floodwaters may carry raw sewage, chemical waste and other disease-spreading substances. If you've come in contact

with floodwaters, wash your hands with soap and disinfected water.

- Avoid walking through floodwaters. As little as six inches of moving water can knock you off your feet.
- Don't drive through a flooded area. If you come upon a flooded road, turn around and go another way. A car can be carried away by just two feet of flood water.
- Electric current passes easily through water, so stay away from downed power lines and electrical wires.
- Animals lose their homes in floods, too. Be aware that even domesticated animals may be confused and unpredictable in a flood situation.

AFTER THE FLOOD: Flood dangers do not end when the water begins to recede.

- Listen to a radio or television and do not return until authorities indicate it is safe to do so.
- Stay out of buildings if flood waters remain around the building.
- Check for structural damage before re-entering your home—you don't want to be trapped in a building collapse
- When entering buildings, use extreme caution.
- Watch for fire hazards.
- Pump out flooded basements gradually (about one-third of the water per day) to avoid structural damage.
- Have damaged septic tanks, cesspools, pits, and leaching systems services as soon as possible. Damaged sewage systems are health hazards.
- Inspect your utilities & report broken utility lines to appropriate authorities.
- Inspect foundations for cracks or other damage.
- Do not use matches, cigarette lighters or other open flames upon re-entering your property. Gas may be trapped inside. If you smell gas or hear hissing, leave quickly and call the gas company from a neighbor's home.
- Keep power off until an electrician has inspected your system for safety.
- Throw away any food including canned goods that have come in contact with floodwaters.
- Boil water for drinking and food preparation until local authorities declare your water supply is safe.
- Wells should be pumped out and the water tested for purity before drinking. If in doubt call your local water provider.
- Prevent mold by removing wet contents immediately. Wet carpeting, furniture, bedding, and any other items holding moisture or water inside the building can develop mold within 24 to 48 hours. Items should be cleaned with a phenolic or pine-oil cleaner and bleach solution, completely dried, and monitored for several days for any fungal growth and odors. If any mold develops, throw the item away.
- Take photos of everything before you throw it out. This will support your flood claim and allow you to receive all possible financial assistance.
- Avoid using toilets and faucets until you have checked for sewage and water line damage. If you suspect damage, call a plumber.
- Take steps to reduce your risk of future floods by using flood-resistant materials and techniques and following local building codes and ordinances when rebuilding.

IF YOU HAVE FLOOD INSURANCE:

- Report damage to your insurance carrier immediately and to local and federal authorities as soon as requested.
- If your home has suffered damage, call the agent who handles your flood insurance to file a claim.
- If you are unable to stay in your home, let the agent know where you can be reached.
- Take photos of any water in the house and save damaged personal property. This will make filing your claim easier. If necessary, place these items outside the home. An insurance adjuster will need to see what's been damaged in order to process your claim. If you must throw items away prior to the adjuster arriving, take photos of everything first.
- Make a list of damaged or lost items and include their age and value where possible. If possible, supply receipts for those lost items to the adjuster. Officials may require disposal of damaged items. If so, keep a swatch or other sample of the items for the adjuster.
- Salvage water-damaged books, heirlooms, and photographs using restoration tips from the NFIP at <http://www.fema.gov/hazard/flood/coping.shtm>.

Contact Info:

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